

**Isle of Wight Council**

The Ethical Standards Committee

**Annual Report  
April 2011- March 2012**

## Index

1. Chairman's Statement
2. Foreword
3. Executive Summary
4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Name and details of Committee members

# **Chairman's Report 2012**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

## **'Perception to Partnership'**

This is my final report as chairman of the Ethical Standards Committee (and of the committee itself) and it is not written with any sadness for a structure about to be replaced. On the contrary it is written in the spirit I have always approached my duties - pragmatism and looking forward to the future.

It comes as no surprise to anyone involved in the code of conduct and complaints that the process introduced by the Standards Board for England to deal with complaints was 'perceived' as overly cumbersome and bureaucratic.

In the 'partnership' that is: County Councillors; Parish Councillors; Independent members of the public and the IW Council's officers we have all done our best on the Isle of Wight to take the legislation and regulations and apply a sensible view of complaints.

At times the structure itself has led us to refer for further investigation matters which, once investigated, had outcomes many would have thought inevitable i.e. not worthy of further action or a simple apology. This has clearly caused some to believe the system itself is flawed – it isn't.

If you chose to enter public life you should expect to follow high principles of good behaviour so that the public can have confidence decisions taken on their behalf are made for the right reasons. I firmly believe for that reason a code of conduct is necessary for elected individuals and I'm pleased to see the government stance of 'burn all the guangos' has ended up with the far more pragmatic decision not to throw the baby out with the bath water. A code of conduct, albeit one with virtually no sanctions bar prosecution for those limited circumstances deemed to be 'criminal' is proposed under the new legislation. If sanctions are to be so limited that doesn't mean the opinions and views of your peers and the public shouldn't be seen as strong a sanction as a suspension.

I hope those who lead and are members of groupings of councillors see that the public do care about how you all conduct yourselves and would hope you take heart from the fact that most of the complaints levelled against you do not reveal a breach of the code of conduct. The simple fact is that elected members DO conduct themselves properly on most occasions. Sometimes the 'heat of the moment' comments or actions lead to a complaint. To my mind and from experience since 2005 complainants often feel they are right simply because they have complained. Before I finished drafting this report I had been informed the first Parish Council on the Island has chosen to adopt the Code of Conduct to be recommended to full council this month. That is very heartening.

The Isle of Wight has always had members of the public involved in handling complaints against councillors and our out-going committee is constituted to have no less than seven independent members. I believe this to be a real strength of the complaints systems and I am delighted the government proposals continue this in

the form of the new 'Designated Independent Person' post. As we await the regulations we earnestly hope that existing members of the public can continue for a handover period to ensure continuity and allow time for new people to volunteer to take on the role.

I've carried out my duties the same way I approached my life as a customs officer – here is legislation and process and here is the wider public interest. I have found the best place to be is within the law and spirit of both these and am comfortable I and the whole committee have achieved that.

I have valued my regular programme of informal (separate) quarterly meetings with the Leader and Chief Executive (whoever is appointed to these posts) and my monthly meetings with the Monitoring Officer and her deputies. Contrary to some views these are not where conspiracies are hatched or deals done but have been refreshingly open and honest discussions about standards of elected behaviour on the Island and the good news is the Isle of Wight generally has councillors who go into local politics for the right reasons. I do not feel I or any other members of the committee have 'gone native' in the sense we are unduly influenced by close or regular contact with the elected representatives. We have done our best to assess each complaint on its merit; set it against the legislation and decide what to do next.

The strength of the outgoing system is that each level of assessment or hearing comprises three completely different members of the committee. Quite rightly I have no more influence than any other member of an assessment or hearing panel.

The new structure envisages a role for members of the public and I am pleased to see this continue. I know the councillors who serve on our committee have valued having the public involved and we, independent members, equally value their input – put simply the committee couldn't have done this without them and any system not involving elected members would not have the credibility it needs to function properly. This effective partnership has evolved quite naturally in recent years due mainly to the respect everyone has for each other and the officers.

We have been professionally (and cheerfully) supported by the IW Council's officers. Irrespective of rank, they are to a man and woman of very high quality and I know all those who have been committee members over the years would join me in paying tribute to these hard-working officers – thank you team.

To those of you who continue in public office and are appointed to be members of an ethical standards structure on the Isle of Wight - good luck. I believe there is a genuine desire for our island to have a high level of behaviour in public life and my experience is a positive one but that doesn't mean I have been not prepared to take difficult decisions where necessary. I believe working WITH everybody in a cheerful, positive way is more likely to promote good behaviour.

One final thank you – all those who go into public life to serve the Island, some of what you do is a thankless task I hope you all support the principal of a code of conduct and do your best to promote high standards of ethical behaviour in the future.

Mark Southwell  
Independent Chairman

## FOREWORD

Public confidence in the trustworthiness of elected councillors is vital to the health of local government. The Ethical Standards Committee role is to aid and ensure members elected to the Isle of Wight Council and to town and parish councils on the Island maintain high standards of probity in the undertaking of their duties.

The committee, re-constituted by Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000, has three primary roles;

- To determine that councillors, including the committee members themselves, abide by the established Code of Conduct.
- To maintain high ethical standards in accordance with the Ten General Principles of Public Life:
  - **Selflessness**
  - **Honesty and integrity**
  - **Objectivity**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Openness**
  - **Personal judgement**
  - **Respect for others**
  - **Duty to uphold the law**
  - **Stewardship**
  - **Leadership**
- To consider complaints made against councillors, where it is believed that they may have breached the Code of Conduct

The committee's terms of reference are:

1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Isle of Wight Council and the town and parish councils on the Island.
2. To assist members and co-opted members of the councils on the Island to observe the relevant codes of conduct.
3. Specifically the committee will:
  - Advise the various councils on the adoption or revision of a code of conduct and monitor the operation of that code.
  - Advise, train or arrange training for all members and co-opted members of the councils on matters relating to the code of conduct.
  - Make an initial assessment on all complaints against elected members that are received
  - Consider any reports by the Monitoring Officer following an investigation into a complaint
  - Where appropriate (and subject to the regulations and detailed guidance from Standards for England) to determine whether a complaint against an elected member should be upheld and, if so, to decide a suitable sanction
4. To consider any other matters that are referred to the committee by either:

- Standards for England
  - The Isle of Wight Council
  - Any of the parish and town councils on the Isle of Wight
5. To consider and determine any requests for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matters in which the member has an interest.
  6. To consider any requests that a particular post should not be classified as politically restricted.
  7. To inquire of its own instigation into any matter touching or concerning the ethics and standards of the council.
  8. To submit to the council an annual report on activities over the last year.
  9. The Chairman of the Ethical Standards Committee may report to Full Council, at his initiative, on any ethical/probity issues that he believes ought to be drawn to the attention of the council.

In addition to the statutory duties, the Isle of Wight Ethical Standards Committee also undertakes:

- To attend meetings of the Isle of Wight Council and its various committees, and similarly to attend meetings of all the town and parish councils.
- To respond to inquiries from the public on any aspect of ethical practice or activity.

The Ethical Standards Committee comprises:

Seven independent members of the public:

Mr Mark Southwell  
 Mr Anthony Brindle KSG  
 Mr Keith Fagan (until February 2012)  
 Mr George Hibberd MBE  
 Ms Liz Mackenzie  
 Mr Ray Smith OBE  
 Mr Peter Tautz (until 30 October 2011)

Four elected members of the Isle of Wight Council:

Cllr Peter Bingham (from May 2011)  
 Cllr John Howe  
 Cllr Heather Humby  
 Cllr Gary Taylor (from May 2011)  
 Cllr Susan Scoccia (until May 2011)  
 Cllr David Williams (until May 2011)

Four representative of the town and parish councils:

Cllr Richard Day  
Cllr Ron Mew BEM  
Cllr Denis Russell  
Cllr John Ward

Full details of the members are set out in Appendix A.

The Ethical Standards Committee last met on 4 April 2011 at 6pm at County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The year since 1 April 2011 has seen the committee give initial consideration to 18 complaints (a drop of 16 from last year). Two complaints were sent for investigation, both of which have been concluded during the year. A detailed analysis of these figures is covered later in this report.
- 1.2. There were two changes to the membership of the committee, Cllrs Peter Bingham and Gary Taylor having joined the committee as replacements for Isle of Wight Council members Susan Scoccia and David Williams.
- 1.3. Our key objectives this year have been:
  - Continue to deal with the complaints locally in a timely manner
  - Consider any changes proposed by the Government to the ethical standards regime.

## 2. Complaints

- 2.1. This year has seen a total of 18 complaints submitted against elected members on the Isle of Wight. This compares to 34 submitted last year. A detailed breakdown of the complaints received is attached at Appendix A.

### 2.2. Initial Assessments

- (a) Total number of complaints formally received by the Monitoring Officer for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012:

18

Total number received since 8 May 2008 (when the responsibility was transferred to the Ethical Standards Committee):

125

- (b) Of the 18 for this year the breakdown between types of Council is:

9 refer to Isle of Wight Council members  
9 refer to Parish/Town Council members

Whereas the total numbers since 8 May 2008 are:

49 refer to Isle of Wight Council members  
76 refer to Parish/Town Council members

- (c) Of the 18 for this year that have been considered by the Assessment Sub Committee:

13 no action (of these 2 were reviewed, with the original decisions being upheld)  
1 referred to Monitoring Officer for other action  
3 referred for local investigation  
1 pending



Whereas the total numbers since 8 May 2008 are:

- 65 no action
- 19 referred to Monitoring Officer for other action
- 31 referred for local investigation
- 4 withdrawn by the applicant
- 1 pending
- 1 not a code of conduct issue
- 3 closed as insufficient details had been provided
- 1 split decision
- 14 reviews

2.3. When the committee initially established the local assessment framework, it gave a commitment to carry out the initial assessment of all complaints within ten working days of receipt of the complaint. Generally this target has been achieved although setting up the panel in such a tight time scale generated resource issues. Consequently, in January 2011 it was agreed to revise the arrangements to reduce the administrative burden by setting aside a date each month for the initial consideration of complaints. This has worked well.

#### 2.4. **Investigations**

2.5. During the year three investigations into complaints submitted have been undertaken, two of which have been concluded.

2.6. Of the investigations concluded the members concerned were not found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

#### 2.7. **Lessons Learned**

2.8. A total of 8 matters have been concluded during the year (the 3 mentioned above and a further 5 where the investigations were actually started in the previous year).

2.9. Whilst some of these did conclude in breaches of the code the actual impact of the breaches was generally low with the member concerned ultimately accepting that they had breached the code, often with the best of intentions.

2.10. On a more general point as mentioned before perception is the key issue and most complaints and investigations do revolve around how others might see the issues rather than what actually happened, or the impact of the detailed circumstances surrounding a matter.

### 3. **Changes to the Ethical Standards Committee Membership**

3.1. Last year Cllrs Susan Scoccia and David Williams resigned from the committee to undertake other duties within the Council. We were pleased to welcome Cllrs Peter Bingham and Gary Taylor to our committee and following some induction and training provided by the Monitoring Officer, both Cllrs commenced their work with the committee.

- 3.2. Mr George Hibberd, one of our independent members, has been appointed as vice chairman of the committee and he has assisted the chairman in a number of meetings with the Monitoring Officer and her deputies, the Chief Executive and the Isle of Wight Council Leader during the year.
- 3.3. There have also been changes in the independent membership of the Committee. Peter Tautz moved to the mainland in October 2011 and therefore had to stand down from the committee as living or working on the island is a requirement of membership. Keith Fagan resigned in February 2012. Thanks go to both for their service on the committee and contribution to improving ethical governance on the island. As the system is due to change later this year, the vacancies have not been recruited to, so thanks are due to the remaining independent members for willingly carrying out the extra workload between them.

#### **4. Training Activities**

Individual training sessions were held by the Monitoring Officer with the new IOW Councillors elected during the year. She and her deputies continue to be available to deal with any queries or concerns about the Code of Conduct from councillors. As the Localism Act changes the ethical standards provisions and requires a new code of conduct and new arrangements for dealing with complaints to be introduced in the near future, and there have not been significant elections during the year, formal training sessions have not been offered. These will take place when the new Code and arrangements are in place, which is likely to be later this year.

#### **5. Looking Forward**

- 5.1. Royal Assent was given to the Localism Bill on 15 November 2011. The Localism Act requires the Council to adopt a new Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints under the code. The nationally prescribed format of the previous code and process for dealing with complaints has been relaxed and so while there are some nationally set requirements which must be included, there is a greater element of local choice. We are still awaiting regulations which have some of the detail in, but have already been discussing the future arrangements and we hope to recommend a local code of conduct and arrangements for dealing with them to the full council for decision in due course. There will no longer be a requirement for a statutory Standards Committee, and so this is likely to be the last annual report of the Committee.

### Summary of number of complaints by paragraph of Code of Conduct

<b>Paragraph of the Code</b>	<b>No of complaints</b>
<b>Paragraph 3 (1)</b> You must treat others with respect	76
<b>Paragraph 3 (2) (a)</b> You must not do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006)	10
<b>Paragraph 3 (2) (b)</b> You must not bully any person.	30
<b>Paragraph 3 (2) (c)</b> You must not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be –  (i) a complainant (ii) a witness, or (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct	11
<b>Paragraph 3 (2) (d)</b> You must not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority	7
<b>Paragraph 4 (a)</b> Showing confidential information to another person (without good reason) is a potential breach of the code of conduct.	8
<b>Paragraph 4 (b)</b> You must not prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.	4
<b>Paragraph 5</b> You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute	78
<b>Paragraph 5 (b) (i)</b> You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the authority act in accordance with the authority's requirements	2
<b>Paragraph 6 (a)</b> A member using (or attempting to use) their office to confer an advantage is a potential breach of the code of conduct.	37
<b>Paragraph (6) (b) (i)</b> You must act in accordance with the authority's reasonable requirements.	10
<b>Paragraph 6 (b) (ii)</b>	5

<b>Paragraph of the Code</b>	<b>No of complaints</b>
You must ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes).	
<b>Paragraph 6 (c)</b> You must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.	1
<b>Paragraph 7 (i) (b)</b> When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by your authority's monitoring officer	2

<b>Paragraph of the Code</b>	<b>No of complaints</b>
<b>Personal and Prejudicial Interests</b>	
<b>Paragraph 2 (1)</b> Personal interest	1
<b>Paragraph 3 (1)</b> Personal and prejudicial interest	1
<b>Paragraph 4 (1) (a)</b> Prejudicial interest – you must withdraw from the chamber	1
<b>Paragraph 4 (1) (b)</b> You must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.	1
<b>Paragraph 8</b> Failure to declare a personal interest	21
<b>Paragraph 9 (4)</b> Disclosure of personal interests	8
<b>Paragraph 10</b> Failure to declare a prejudicial interest	17
<b>Paragraph 12</b> Failure to withdraw from a meeting when the member has a prejudicial interest	8
<b>Paragraph 13 (1)</b> within 28 days of election:-  You must register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer	3
<b>Paragraph 13 (2)</b>	2

<b>Paragraph of the Code</b> <b>Personal and Prejudicial Interests</b>	<b>No of complaints</b>
Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer	

<b>Paragraphs from the Code Referred to Monitoring Officer</b>	
<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Paragraph 3 (1)</b> - You must treat others with respect.	12
<b>Paragraph 3 (2) (a)</b> – You must not do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006).	5
<b>Paragraph 4</b> - Showing confidential information to another person (without good reason) is a potential breach of the code of conduct.	1
<b>Paragraph 5</b> - You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.	11
<b>Paragraph 6</b> - A member using (or attempting to use) their office to confer an advantage is a potential breach of the code of conduct.	7
<b>Paragraph 8</b> – failure to declare a personal and a prejudicial interest	1
<b>Paragraph 10</b> – failure to declare a personal and a prejudicial interest	1
<b>Para 13 - (1)</b> within 28 days of election:-  Register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer	1
<b>Para 13 - (2)</b>  Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.	1
<b>Source of Complaint</b>	<b>No.</b>
Member of the Public	94

<b>Paragraphs from the Code Referred to Monitoring Officer</b>	
An elected Member	24
Officer of the Council	7

	<b>No.</b>
Number of complaints re Isle of Wight Councillors	49
Number of complaints re Parish/Town Councillors	76

# APPENDIX A

## Ethical Standards Committee – Membership

### Independent Members

The Independent Members of the Committee are members of the public and are drawn from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and experience and undertake to have no active political affiliations.

#### **Mark Southwell (Chairman)**

A retired Customs Officer, married with two children and a resident of Cowes. Mark spent most of his career on the Island and afloat around the Solent on Customs patrol vessels instructing other officers on boat handling and coastal intelligence. His last post in Customs was to investigate complaints made against officers by the public and trade.

He is actively involved in sailing on the Island at Gurnard and Cowes and helps run the racing during Cowes Week and enjoyed running the sailing for the NatWest Island Games last year. He joined Cowes RNLI in July 2008 and runs the lifeboat and station on behalf on the RNLI as a volunteer. Mark joined the committee in 2005 and was appointed Chairman in April 2007.

#### **Anthony Brindle KSG**

A retired Company Director, qualified in engineering in the Royal Navy, subsequently undertaking service in the Merchant Navy as navigating officer and Master. Anthony was responsible for inaugurating the first scheduled hovercraft services on the Solent and the English Channel before appointment to the Minister of Technology and to the United Nations Organisation as advisor on transport operations.

He has appeared in the High and Crown courts as an expert on maritime matters, was Chief Executive of companies engaged in Marine and Aviation Safety and Chairman of the board of trustees of a major international charity. Resident in Cowes, he is the author of works on Shipping, Hovercraft and Safety at Sea.

#### **Keith Fagan**

A retired businessman. After several years of running large organisations on the mainland and ten successful years of owning and running his own company, Keith retired to The Island in 2004. Keith is a Non Executive Director for a mainland company with offices in The United States and South Africa. Being an active member of the Bembridge Arts Society continues to fuel his passion for Art.

Keith joined the Ethical Standards Committee in 2005 to help promote high standards in public life on the Island. Keith resigned from the Ethical Standards Committee in February 2012.

### **George Hibberd MBE**

George is a native islander, and a solicitor by profession who retired in 2002 from partnership in a local law firm. He now works part time for the Tribunal Service as a judge dealing with welfare benefits issues. He is also President of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and chairman of the local housing association. His passion is for motorbikes.

### **Liz Mackenzie**

During her career Liz has been a director and trustee of a wide range of public, private and charitable organisations on the Island and in London. She started her working life by training as a nurse (during this phase of her life she was a NUPE - as it was then - shop steward) and then she moved into public relations and marketing with a range of organisations, before becoming the Chief Executive of a Chamber of Commerce. She then moved back to live on the Island.

On the Island she has been the chair of trustees of a pre school and a parent governor of a primary school. She is currently a Non Executive Director of the Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust, a lay advisor to the new Clinical Commissioning Group, a lay advisor to the Wessex Deanery (which oversees the training of junior doctors), a member of the Standards Committee of the Hampshire Police Authority and a Trustee of Northwood House.

### **Ray Smith OBE**

Ray is a civil engineer by training and worked for the civil service, serving for nearly 30 years throughout UK, including in Germany for 4 years. The main focus of his career was construction design, project and facility management and procurement. Ray like many other island residents first fell in love with the island on post-war family holidays. His parents moved to the island in the early 1970s and his own children, now grown up with children of their own, visit Ray at Bembridge, where he has lived since 2000. Since retirement Ray has provided independent consultancy services with his wife – supporting international development, democracy and governance and working in the Palestinian territories and East Africa.

### **Peter Tautz**

Peter is a former Police Officer serving on the Isle of Wight and Hampshire and is now employed as a gardener working in many private gardens in the Seaview and Nettlestone area. He is also well known as 'The Wight Toastmaster' being a professional toastmaster and member of The London Guild of Toastmasters. He is a married man with three adult children all living on the mainland. Peter moved to the mainland and therefore had to stand down from the Committee at this time as a requirement of being on the Committee is living or working on the island.



## **Isle of Wight Council Members**

### **Cllr Peter Bingham**

Peter Bingham has represented Central Wight Ward since 2009 and is a Parish Councillor in Shorwell.

He is a retired RAF Group Captain who spent much of his 31 year career as a pilot which included time in command of a flying squadron during the Gulf War. He also served at MOD in Whitehall, was a tutor at the RAF Staff College and represented the UK Government as the Defence Attaché to Algeria and Tunisia.

Upon retirement he was appointed Chairman of the Isle of Wight Health Authority and subsequently Chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority. During his time with the NHS he was a member of the South East England Regional Assembly and the National Council of the NHS Confederation, a Director of the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership and Chaired the Island Board for Health & Wellbeing.

### **Cllr John Howe**

John has been a Totland Parish Councillor for about 33 years and has recently completed 10 years as Chairman of Totland Parish Council. He also had a previous term as an Isle of Wight Councillor for Totland. He sits on a number of organisations locally in the West Wight Area including 3 School Governing Bodies, West Wight Nursery, West Wight Sports Centre and West Wight Youth Centre. He is also a member of Children and Young Persons Committee on the Isle of Wight Council.

John retired from GKN Aerospace 8 years ago having worked there as an aircraft electrician for over 30 years.

### **Cllr Heather Humby**

Heather has been a councillor for Sandown on Sandown Shanklin Urban District Council, South Wight Borough Council and Sandown Town Council, and has served as Borough, and Town Mayor. More recently she was Chairman of Isle of Wight Council.

She sits on a number of local organisations, and is Chairman of IW Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Prior to council service, she served in the WRNS, and also worked in the Pursers department of Cunard Steamship Company.

### **Cllr Gary Taylor**

### **Cllr Susan Scoccia**

Susan was educated at Watford Grammar School for Girls and then took a bi-lingual secretarial course at the Institut Francais du Royaume Unit, South Kensington. From there she went to Italy for 14 months to learn Italian. She returned to London

in 1979 and had a number of jobs, mainly in the food and catering industry, and in particular enjoyed running Ciao Italia GB, the Association of Italian Restaurateurs in Great Britain for a number of years.

She and her family moved to the Isle of Wight in 1994, where she became County Councillor for Ventnor West in 2005, as well as Town Councillor for St. Lawrence. Susan was Mayor of Ventnor for two consecutive years in 2007-2009. For the Isle of Wight Council, she is Chair of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee, and a member of the Planning, Audit and Ethical Standards Committees. She is the Local Authority representative on the Island's Fostering Panel, Ventnor Youth and Community Centre and the LEA Governor for Ventnor's new primary school, St. Francis.

### **Cllr David Williams**

David was born in Cornwall, and until the age of 33 lived in a small village called Constantine, near Falmouth. On leaving school at 16, he embarked on an apprenticeship as a mason and plasterer. At the age of 26, he took a change of direction and entered sales and marketing, which he did for 27 years.

In 1980 he moved to Birmingham, before settling on the Isle of Wight in 1988. At the age of 50, he took voluntary redundancy and is now self-employed as a plasterer.

He is active in the local community in Shanklin, and has recently completed a two-year term as Mayor of Shanklin. He has been a member of Shanklin Town Council since 1997. He is also Chairman of the Management Committee of Shanklin Conservative Club and a committee member of Shanklin Youth Club.

He has a keen interest in education matters and serves as a LEA Governor at Sandham Middle and Gatten & Lake Primary Schools in Shanklin.

## **Parish and Town Council Members**

### **Cllr Richard Day**

Richard has lived on the Island from 1973 since marrying his wife Rosalyn. He has 2 grown-up children and 4 grand children. He worked on the Island for Plessey from 1973 until 1989 when he joined a sub contractor of Plessey but continued working on the site until taking early retirement in 2005. Since then he had worked part time for Sainsbury's on the checkouts, but is now fully retired. His hobbies are reading, Star Trek and Nature Conservation. He joined Gurnard Parish Council in 2002, being currently Chairman and has served on a variety of sub committees for the Parish as well as being a Tree Warden. He is currently Treasurer of IW Association of Local Councils. He also serves as Nature Conservation Officer on the committee of Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

### **Cllr Ron Mew BEM**

Ron retired from the gas Industry after 40 years service. He served as a shop steward and branch secretary for a number of years. He has been a Parish Councillor at Godshill for 30 years. In 1987 he received the British Empire Medal for services rendered to industry and community, for which he felt greatly honoured.

Over the years he has been secretary and treasurer to Godshill Cricket Club. At the present time he is a team captain of a Bowls Club at Shanklin.

He has been on the Committee for the past ten years.

### **Cllr Denis Russell**

Denis was born at Westcourt Farm, Shorwell and has lived there all his life. He has farmed Westcourt with his family since the death of his father in 1955.

He was elected onto Shorwell Parish Council in 1964 and was Chairman from 1969 – 1994. He was a member of South Wight Borough Council from 1994 until it ceased to be when the Unitary Authority was created, the last two years of South Wight Borough Council he was privileged to be Chairman of the planning committee. He has always been interested in Local Government and has always served as an independent member.

### **Cllr John Ward**

John was born in Singapore as a British National due to his father being based there in the Air Force, before moving back to England he lived in Australia. Being brought up in Surrey he visited the Island on a number of occasions, and always wanted to return to live here. He had a period of approx 7 years as a Lifeboat crew member working on both inshore and offshore Lifeboats. Then finally moving to the Island in 2005 where he worked within Vestas before being made redundant. He is married with 2 young children who both go to school in Newport. He has interests in web design and has a handful of community sites which he has created and updates.

John has been a member of Newport Parish Council since May 2010 and from there also went on to be an Executive Committee member for the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils. He has a keen interest in what happens on the Island and is proud to represent the people of his ward.